

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HAVANA 00647 110407Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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P R 102053Z MAR 78
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1365
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMEASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0647

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: XJ XF CU RH ET SO
SUBH: FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA VISITS AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST

1. ITALIAN EMBASSY, MARCH 10, INFORMS US THAT CUBANS HAVE TOLD THEM THAT FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA HAS DEPARTED FOR VISITS TO ADDIS, DAR ES SALAAM, LUSAKA, MAPUTO AND ANTANANARIVO (NOT NECESSARILY IN THIS ORDER). MALMIERCA IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN ROME FROM LISBON, APRIL 1, FOR ONE DAY STAY, AFTER WHICH HE WILL PROCEED TO BAGHDAD AND ADEN.

2 COMMENT: ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER TORRAS, IN CONVERSATION WITH USINT CHIEF, MARCH 9, WAS SOMEWHAT VAGUE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT MALMIERCA WOULD BE GOING TO ADDIS. CUBANS TOLD ITALIANS THAT ABOVE ITINERARY IS SOMEWHAT TENTATIVE AND MAY BE EXPANDED OR CONTRACTED DEPENDING ON ONGOING ARRANGEMENTS.

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3. WE PRESUME THAT MAIN PURPOSE OF MALMIERCA TRIP AT THIS TIME IS TO BUTTRESS AND CONVEY CUBAN POSITION REGARDING HORN CRISIS AND RHODESIAN "INTERNAL" SETTLEMENT BEFORE MAY KABUL MEETING OF NON-ALLIGNED MOVEMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE. WHILE MAPUTO, LUSAKA, AND DAR STOPS ARE PRESUMABLY RELATED TO PROVIDING ENCOURAGEMENT FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF, AND UNITY WITHIN, PATRIOTIC FRONT AFTER

SMITH'S "INTERNAL SETTLEMENT", VISITS TO TANANARIVE, ADDIS, BAGHDAD, AND ADEN MUST RELATE TO CUBAN EFFORT TO FASHION HORN SETTLEMENT TO HAVANA'S TASTE.

4. WE PRESUME THAT MALMIERCA WILL SEEK TO ENCOURAGE TANANARIVE TO PURSUE ITS ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI MEDIATION EFFORT AS A COUNTERWEIGHT TO NIGERIA. BAGHDAD'S ROLE MAY BE PARTICULARLY CRUCIAL WITH REGARD TO ERITREA. WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE, BASED ON PAST COMMENTS, THAT CUBANS WOULD LIKE TO DIVORCE MARXIST ERIVREAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT FROM OTHER TWO ERITREAN GROUPS. FOR THIS, SUPPORT OF BAGHDAD AND LIBYA WILL BE IMPORTANT. (FYI NOTE THAT CUBAN-IRAQI TIES ARE NOW UNDERGOING TRANSFORMATION AND UPGRADING. NEW CUBAN AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN NAMED TO BAGHDAD-SEE HAVANA 372, AND ENTIRE IRAQI EMBASSY HERE FROM AMBASSADOR DOWN TO ATTACHE HAS BEEN, OR WILL BE, REMOVED AND REPLACED.)

WTM FYI CUBAN RADIO HAS UST REPORTED MALMIERCA'S ARRIVAL IN MADRID - A STOP NOT MENTIONED BY ITALIANS. ITINERARY, THEREFORE, MAY INDEED BE IN FLUX. END FYI.
LANE

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